



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 1300.15

September 30, 1985

ASD(FM&P)

SUBJECT: Military Funeral Support

References: (a) DoD Directive 1300.15, subject as above, June 12, 1979 hereby canceled

(b) Title 10, United States Code, Section 1482(a) (10) and (f)

(c) Title 38, United States Code, Section 901(a), (b), and (c)

## 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) to update policy, prescribe procedures, and assign responsibilities for military funeral support under reference (b).

## 2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

2.1. This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Military Departments. The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

2.2. It encompasses those military members who die (a) on active duty, (b) retired from active duty, (c) as members of the Reserve components, or (d) as former members (veterans) with an honorable discharge.

## 3. POLICY

The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of paying final tribute on behalf of a grateful nation to honor comrades in arms. Individual requests for military honors reflect the personal pride and esteem placed upon Military Service and offer an opportunity to display military professionalism to the nation firsthand. Therefore, it is

the policy of the Department of Defense to assist in the conduct of funeral services for military personnel (former and present). The intent of this Directive is to ensure that commanders at all levels respond to requests for military honors with priority and sensitivity, and that every reasonable effort is made to honor one of our own.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Military Departments are responsible for providing appropriate tribute to deceased members within the constraints of available resources.

4.2. Arrangements for funeral support or the use of military chapels for funeral rites and/or services shall be made through the commanding officer of the DoD installation concerned, except at Arlington National Cemetery where the senior service chaplain should be contacted. Availability will be determined by local manning and mission requirements.

4.3. When requests are denied, the commander of the DoD installation concerned should offer assistance in obtaining the requested support from another activity of the same Military Service, e.g., National Guard or Reserves (through normal channels), ROTC Unit, or veteran's organization, or another Military Service.

#### 5. PROCEDURES

5.1. The following support shall be observed as minimum funeral requirements when requested by the next of kin, as resources permit. Additional support may be provided at the discretion of the Military Service concerned.

5.1.1. For a member who dies while on active duty, member of the National Guard or Reserves while in a duty status, or a holder of the Medal of Honor, there shall be:

5.1.1.1. Pallbearers

5.1.1.2. A firing party

5.1.1.3. A bugler (when a military bugler is not available, a civilian musician or as a last resort a professional quality tape recording)

5.1.1.4. An officer in charge or a noncommissioned officer in charge

5.1.1.5. A chaplain

5.1.2. For a retired member drawing retired pay there shall be:

5.1.2.1. The same support as prescribed for active duty personnel if available.

5.1.2.2. If support described above is not available, a member of the Military Service concerned (officer or enlisted depending on the status of the decedent) shall be assigned to represent the Military Service at the funeral. When requested by the next of kin, the military representative will present the flag (as provided by the Veterans Administration in accordance with 38 USC 901 reference (c)) "on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Armed Forces and a grateful Nation."

5.1.3. For a member of a Reserve component not in a duty status or a former member with an honorable discharge, there shall be a representative of the parent Military Service. The representative will be an officer or enlisted member depending upon the status of the decedent. The Military Service representative will attend the funeral and present the flag to the designated recipient as described in paragraph 5.1.2.2., above.

5.2. Reserve component members, while performing funeral support duty, shall be in an active duty status. As such, their pay, allowances and travel/per diem expenses (if any) shall be paid from Military Service resources other than Reserve training funds. Such support duty may also, with the member's consent, be performed in a non-pay status, although travel expenses incurred incident to the performance of such duty shall be paid.

5.3. Personnel selected for funeral details shall have been trained for this duty.

5.4. Orders shall be issued authorizing personnel to perform this duty. If a member is required to perform the duty prior to issuance of orders, availability of funds must be determined prior to the performance of duty and confirmatory orders shall be issued.

5.5. Apply the following considerations in planning and rendering assistance:

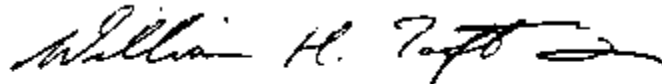
5.5.1. The funeral detail must not seriously interfere with the primary mission of the DoD activity concerned.

5.5.2. Trained personnel and proper equipment should be available.

5.5.3. The detail should not be absent from duty for more than one day (unless deceased member dies on active duty or is the recipient of the Medal of Honor).

## 6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward one copy of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel) within 120 days.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William H. Taft, IV". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense